(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Periodic reports have been submitted by the price negotiating committee from time to time.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Visit of the US Delegation to India in March, 2002

4402. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of United States of America visited India in the month of March, 2002;

(b) if so, the subjects of mutual interest which were discussed with them;

(c) the agreements reached during the visit and other details in this regard; and

(d) the assistance expected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Visit of U.S. Armed Forces officers did take place during this time period.

(b) to (d) It would not be possible to give further details, in the interest of national security.

Delivery of 5 SU-30 Aircraft by Russia to India

4403. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia was to supply 5 SU-30 Aircrafts to India;

(b) if so, the number out of them which have been delivered to India; and

(c) when the remaining aircraft are likely to be delivered?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) India is procuring SU-30K/SU-30MK1 aircraft from Russia. Some aircraft have been received and the delivery of the rest would be phases.

Lack of Logistical support to troops in Indo-Pak border

4404. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that our troops on Indo-Pak border have been facing acute logistical shortage including water besides posing sanitation problem in Rajasthan where temperature had recently crossed 40 degree mark; and

(b) if so, whether Government had reviewed the state of mobilization of our troops on border and if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Every effort is being made to ensure that troops in Rajasthan do not face any hardship related to shortages of water and sanitation.

(b) There is no improvement in the cross-border terrorism abetted by Pakistan. Accordingly, the Government of India have decided that in order to meet any exigency, it would be in the interest of the nation to continue the deployment of troops, on the border.

Purchase of Thermal Imagers from a Black Listed Firm

4405. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a black listed firm has been given orders to the tune of 50 crore for purchase of Thermal Imagers for the Defence Department;

(b) if so, why such steps were taken knowing fully well the consequences of such deals; and

(c) how many such firms have been black listed and what steps are being taken to prevent such transactions in future?